

the different varieties and subvarieties, especially *P. gallicus*, *biglumis*, and *Geoffroyi*, with all the passages from one to the other.

4. Among the numerous individuals of *P. biglumis* that I have captured or bred from nests, I have never been able to find a female. The females revert more or less to the characters of *P. gallicus*, or are replaced by the female of the latter.

5. Nor does the male of *P. biglumis* exist; it always, more or less, presents the characters of *P. gallicus*.

6. From this it follows that *P. biglumis*, according to the most accurate observation made upon large series and numerous nests, is only a peculiar modification, a variety, of *P. gallicus*.

IV. Observations upon the exotic species of *Polistes* lead to perfectly analogous conclusions.

V. To sum up, the exact and serial observation of the genus *Polistes* serves marvellously to prove that the mutability of the species, in zoology, although very great as to its varieties, does not extend beyond these, and does not attain to the production of specific types when these are well defined and correctly established.—*Comptes Rendus*, July 13, 1868, pp. 75–77.

*On a new Species of Chirogalus from the West Coast of Madagascar.*

By M. A. GRANDIDIER.

*Chirogalus Samati* (nob.). Obscure fusco-griseus, subtus fulvescens.

Cauda crassa, obsolete rufescente; fascia alba a fronte media ad nasi apicem decurrente; oculis nigro circumdatis; auriculis paulo longioribus quam *Chirogali Milii*.

Long. ab apice nasi ad caudæ basin 19 centim.; caudæ 17 centim.

Habitat flumen Tsidsibon, in littore occidentali Madagascar insulæ.

This *Chirogalus* is specially remarkable by its head, which resembles that of a young cat, and by the size of its tail, which is 6 centimetres in circumference; it owes this size, which is abnormal in the Lemurids, to the presence of a thick layer of fat, similar to what occurs round the tails of the Cape sheep.

The hair of the body, as well as that of the tail, is rather short. It is known to the natives by the name of Kéli-bé-houï.

I have named this animal after M. E. Samat, who has resided for the last twenty-two years on the west coast of Madagascar, and from whom I have received great kindness during my stay in these inhospitable regions. To him I owe my acquaintance with this curious Lemurid and the two specimens which I have forwarded to the Paris Museum.

I avail myself of this occasion to make known a curious fact which the beautiful collections recently brought from the north-west coast of Madagascar by the skilful keeper of the Musée de Bourbon, M. Lantz, have enabled me to verify, viz. that *Berniera major* and *Berniera minor* are but one species: *B. major* is the male, *B. minor* the female. M. Lantz has taken some fifteen of each animal in the same locality, and ascertained that they lived together. Saint-Denis, Ile de Réunion, Dec. 18, 1867.